



Good Morning, Chairman Vaupel and members of House Health Policy Committee,

I am testifying on behalf of Michigan's Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment Directors. We represent the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Directors (SAPT) from Michigan's Regional Prepaid Inpatient Health Programs (PIHP) who manage the publicly-funded SUD treatment and prevention services in their respective regions.

We fully endorse HB 5085 as a critically important step forward after years of funding gaps for prevention and treatment programming for individuals at risk of—or suffering from—addiction to alcohol, opioids and other drugs. Substance abuse may be a medical issue, but, untreated, it has devastating social consequences for Michigan families and communities: job losses, poverty, homelessness, child neglect and abuse, suicides and homicides, property crimes, incarceration, severe health problems, and death.

Beyond the human cost, the financial ripple effect to Michigan and our nation runs in the 100s of billions of dollars.

The opioid crisis, as you all are aware, represents a national emergency. It impacts virtually every community in Michigan. The number of treatment admissions for heroin and prescription opioids has risen over 200% to over 34,000 treatment admissions in Michigan in 2015. Prescription opioid and heroin deaths have increased 13-fold since 1999, with Michigan now ranking 16th in drug-related deaths nationally -- 2,335 Michiganders overdosed and died in 2016. And though the opioid crisis gets most attention currently, our system continues to serve clients with other substance abuse problems including alcohol, cocaine, methamphetamines, and marijuana.

Healthy Michigan has allowed us to make significant inroads in expanding and improving addiction treatment services and recovery supports like transitional housing, but efforts to repeal the ACA threaten Healthy Michigan and our system's ability to respond to the opioid epidemic and other drug problems. Even with Healthy Michigan, treatment demand continues to outstrip the system's resources. Studies have consistently shown that less than 10% of people who need treatment receive it, especially in the areas of detox, residential treatment and medication-assisted therapy often due to a lack of available services.

On the prevention side, HB 5085 would stabilize ongoing support for the Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth (MiPHY), an online student health survey of Michigan's 7th, 9th and 11th grade students' health-risk behaviors related to substance use, violence, physical activity, nutrition, sexual behavior, and emotional health. The MiPHY informs local and regional needs assessments and measures risk and protective factors most predictive of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use and violence. MiPHY results, along with other school-reported data, help local coalitions make data-driven decisions to improve prevention and health promotion programming. Michigan's SUD prevention efforts have positively impacted the reduction in youth tobacco use, ultimately saving the state millions in smoking-related illness, lost productivity, and death. We need to sustain these prevention efforts to combat the opioid crisis with education around prescribing practices, medication take-backs, and public education.

In sum, HB 5085 offers a sustainable, predictable and dedicated funding stream for substance use disorder services in Michigan. It would ensure funding that is consistent with the growing demand regional and localized prevention strategies to prevent the onset of substance abuse as well as treatment and recovery supports for those struggling with the disease of addiction.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important legislation.

*Testimony from Dani Meier
Chief Clinical Officer, MSHN
Representing the PIHP SAPT Directors
1/24/2018*